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American Shipping. By HANS KEILER. Probleme der Weltwirtschaft, No. 14. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1913. Royal 8vo, pp. xx+144. M. 5.

This number in the "Schriften des Instituts für Seeverkehr und Weltwirtschaft an der Universität Kiel" gives a historical account of the American merchant marine from the first vessel of Colonial days down to the present. The first third of the volume, covering the period previous to 1815, is the least satisfactory portion. This, of course, is true of all books dealing with this subject, and perhaps that explains the deficiencies of the present volume, for the author appears to have relied in the main on secondary sources. As a result we have a straightforward, very matter-of-fact account of the ups and downs of our merchant marine. Interpretation is generally lacking, but where it is included it appears to follow along the generally accepted lines. Our coastwise, lake, and river shipping hardly receives due attention and the influence of railroads is largely ignored. The present difficulties of our merchant marine are charged chiefly to the high standards of wages, food, etc., required by our navigation laws, a point which, by the way, seems to be well borne out by the failure to transfer foreign-built ships to American register under the new law of 1912. Other obstacles mentioned are the high cost of ship-building due to the tariff and high wages, and the more promising opportunities for investment elsewhere. While the author includes a historical account of the attempts to revive the merchant marine he has no suggestions or critical comments of his own. Consequently the account, while somewhat colorless, at least succeeds in avoiding the partisanship which has marked so much of the writing on this subject. For those wishing a comparatively brief and unbiased historical statement of the main facts the book can be cordially recommended, but it cannot be said to add anything new to our knowledge of the subject.

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Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung von Alaska. By EDGAR SALIN. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1914. 8vo, pp. viii+225. M. 6.

Dr. Salin has here given us a rather exhaustive work. As he tells us in the preface, his book was planned to deal with the trusts of Alaska, and with the respective problems of concentration and colonization. But it was soon found that scientific conclusions could only be reached after a careful analysis of the